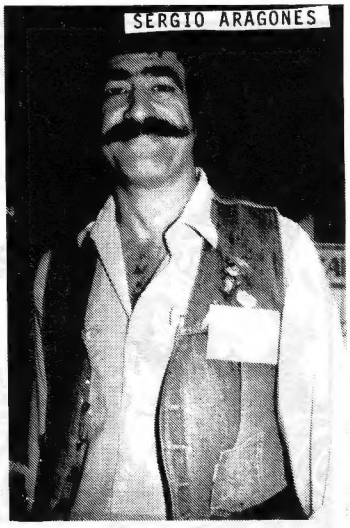
COMIX WORLD 122. June 15, 1979. Copyright Clay Geerdes, Box 7081, Berkeley, CA 94707. All Rights Reserved. Logo by Roldo, Canadian artist who does Roldo The Barbarian (a new issue on the way). Note to CW artist-readers in Europe and abroad--I'll be doing a slide show on foreign comix at the San Diego Con (4 o'clock, Thurs, August 2, 1979) and I'd like to hear the latest from you before then. Drop me a note and copies of any new comix available.* Tim Boxell, just back from England, says COMMIES FROM MARS 2 is well underway. The comic scene is getting tight in England. Head shops getting busted and all the comix and paraphenalia confiscated. Means a lot of dealers will be rejecting comix. Anything American is being grabbed by police, says Tim. Meanwhile, Hunt Emerson is drawing away. His new stuff will be published in the U. S.* GIZMO! One is out. $1.25 from Tom Mason, 705 Draper Road, Blacksburg, VA 24060. A cover by George "Yikes!" Erling and lots of good inside stuff by Gary Whitney, Eddie Eddings, Brad Foster Bob Polio, Grass Green and others. Red cover. B/W guts.* In case you missed it, RBCC 148 has a nice interview with Ron Cobb in which Ron relates how he accidentally got into political cartooning via the L. A. FREE PRESS back in 1964.* Rick McCollum does a b/w 8 1/2 x 11" mag called HORDE. Some fine stuff. $2 for 4 issues. 1718 Cedar #5, Cinci, Ohio 45224.

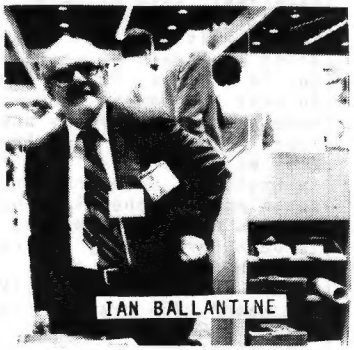
Since the sixties, the Bay Area has been prone to mass gatherings, We've had huge marches and demonstrations and street and park be-ins and love-ins and when the hippies and the politicos were drive into the country by the police and military circa 1969, the various merchants associations had to get something going to get customers back into their neighborhoods & lo and behold the street fairs were born, their style owing a lot to the successful Renaissance Faires put on in Northern and Southern California by the Pattersons. At first, the Grant Street Fair was the biggie (June 17-18 this year in North Beach), but it wasn't long before Union Street and Noe Valley and Polk Gulch were catching up. After awhile, the local merchants seeing that people didn't come inside much on those sunny days moved their stuff out onto the street. Now the fairs are mostly the local merchants and few authentic street artists and craftspeople. A highlight of the Union Street Fair is the public fashion show and I stopped by last weekend to shoot some pictures of the latest duds for you folks in the middle states who couldn't make it out. Looks like split skirts and very brief bikinis and stylized jogging and skating shorts and tops are it this season. The narrator of the show was wearing a leather body stocking and I felt for her in that heat. About ten thousands folks stolled around eating frozen yogurt and corn on a stick. Union is our street of boutiques and body bars and ethnic delis. C.G

Once a year the ABA (American Booksellers' Association) throws a giant convention in a major American city and those of us who are heavy readers go ape and load up on the latest novels and thrillers and bios. This year the ABA gathered in L. A. and the effect was as expected--a lot of tv writers are now talking books. To me, it's a lot more logical to do a book and let an agent wheel and deal the movie rights at a studio than it is spend a lot of time speculating movie scripts. It's a weird business anyway. A friend of mine is in it. Most of the scripts that are done are never filmed. The writers make their living off what is called "development money". After someone at a studio says okay to an idea then the writers get money to develop the idea into a script. You want just a little insight into that business, see the Joseph Wambaugh interview in the July PLAYBOY. He just finished making THE ONION FIELD into a film on his own. Can't blame him after what the studio did to CHOIRBOYS. One of the funniest books since CATCH-22 and they fucked it up completely. I flew to L. A. during the time period the DC-10 went down in Chicago, ending a lot of literary careers--many of the folks on the plane were headed to the ABA Con--and most of the airport folks were on a heavy downer. L. A. was hot and smoggy. The Convention Center was mobbed on Saturday morning. $10 to get in on the biggest freebie supermarket of the year. Small wonder. With the cost of paperbacks going to $2.75 and higher, the admission would have been cheap at $25. What happens at the con is that most of the big publishers have large display booths, complete with giant blowups of their newest book covers. They will have any of their authors they can get on hand to sign books and promote the company. The front people are all decked out in their best three piece suits and slinky dresses, their faces glowing with smiles for the buyers and the press, mindful of the heavies who are watching them from nearby. The presidents and the department heads are always on the ABA scene and after several hours of smiles and handshakes you can see them visibly break down. You think that's the good life, but it's an illusion. I talked to one book president who told me there were people he knew making a hundred grand a year and barely getting by. I floated from Pocket to Dell to Bantam to JB to Avon, not being too interested in hardbacks, but I was disappointed to find that most of the freebies were last year's and not the new crop I expected. The covers were up, but no books. I did get Adam Hall's THE SIBLING, which I read on the plane back to San Francisco (great thriller about incest and reincarnation for you fellow thriller fans). A guy at Playboy Press gave it to me. Across the aisle, Jimmy Doohan was signing STAR TREK stuff. Bantam had Western author Louis L'Amour posing for folks in a Sheriff's star. Cat cartoonist B. Kliban was signing calendars for a gang of elderly women. Lots of charm. Heard a story about Jerzy Kosinski sending his new book around to a lot of companies under a fake name. They all rejected it. His own publisher put the book down. Real embarassed they all must have been when they found out who the author was. Does that go to show it's who you are and not whether you have talent that matters in the book world? No. I loved Kosinski's COCKPIT, but I was turned off by BLIND DATE, which seemed to promote rape. Sergio Aragones said he was working on a new paperback. They ought to have him working on the script for the MAD movie. Someone told me Dan O'Neill was going to court again (June 27 in San Francisco) over his latest parody of the mice which appeared in CO-EVOLUTION QUARTERLY. Stewart Brand was named in the action, too. Says it's the first time he's been sued. They ought to get together and do THE WHOLE MOUSE CATALOG. See you at BAY CON next month. USF, July 27-29.

CLAY GEERDES



Upper Left: Lady with a pet tarantula on her vest. Above: Sergio Aragones visits the ABA. Below, Ian Ballantine, the founder of Ballantine Books.



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